

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 670

By Yarbro

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Scot Copeland of
Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Scot Copeland; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, Scot Copeland served as the beloved director of Nashville Children's Theatre (NCT), where he built a reputation for staging immersive shows that introduced children to fanciful worlds, historical events, and great works of youth literature; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Copeland earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Montevallo, Alabama, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; and

WHEREAS, prior to his tenure at Nashville Children's Theatre, Mr. Copeland worked as the managing director of a youth theatre near Washington, D.C., and handled educational research for the Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Scot Copeland accepted artistic leadership of NCT, a professional theatre company founded in 1931 by the Junior League of Nashville, which is recognized as the oldest professional children's theatre in the country; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Copeland's capable leadership, NCT emerged as the Southeast's flagship theatre for young audiences and became one of the most respected children's theatres in the country; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, *Time* magazine named NCT one of the top five children's theatres in the nation; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career at NCT, Mr. Copeland produced 179 plays, directed 122 plays, and wrote eleven plays; each show hired a fully professional crew and cast members of the Actors Equity Union; and

WHEREAS, Scot Copeland was a tireless advocate for the arts, and he lent his considerable skills and expertise to the Nashville Arts Coalition, The Children's Theatre Foundation of America Board of Directors, and the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Copeland was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, René Dunshee Copeland, the producing artistic director of Nashville Repertory Theatre, and his two sons, Josh Copeland and Ben Copeland; and

WHEREAS, Scot Copeland leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being who devoted his entire career to inspiring and entertaining the minds of our youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Scot Copeland, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Copeland.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.